

**Oahu Invasive Species Committee
General Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2004
Lyon Arboretum
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

I. Welcome and sign in.

II. OISC meeting focus and schedule overview

OISC quarterly meetings have changed format. For the first and third quarter the meetings will remain in the same format as they are now. For the second and fourth quarter meetings OISC will change the focus to include a broader audience. The reason for the change was to keep meetings exciting as well as trying to bring in new voices and thought. These meetings will occur in the evening and focus on a particular neighborhood and location with specific target invasive species issues. Having a specific topic will generate a more in-depth discussion and also serve as a form of education.

Action: Send out this proposal for approval by e-mail.

III. Announcements

A. New OISC staff - Kahale Pali

Kahale explained his background and education. He comes to OISC with significant experience in natural resources. He graduated from BYU – Hawaii with a degree in Biology, completed an internship with The Nature Conservancy, The National Tropical Botanical Gardens, and Hanauma Bay Education Program, and worked at the BYU- Hawaii Museum of Natural History. OISC is really lucky to have him on board. He is a great addition to our team!

B. Wilderness First Aid course -

OISC will be hosting a first aid course next week at Camp Erdman. It is a two-day course.

C. Aquatic invasive coordinator- Bruce Casler

OISC welcomes Bruce to the OISC meeting. OISC is partnering with Bruce to tackle an aquatic invasive project. Bruce works for the Nature Conservancy.

D. Additional announcements

1. - Jason Sumiye from the Koolau Mountain Watershed Partnership is hiring for two positions. These two positions are not open yet, but should be posted soon.
2. OISC is also looking for a deputy chair to become the OISC chair next year. If anyone is interested please contact Leila or Ryan.
3. A meeting for the brown tree snake for pacific islands will be happening Feb. 25 -27. Some meetings will be open to the public. See Mindy Wilkinson for details. In March there will be a steering committee for the Hawaii Invasive Species Committee (March 2-3). There will be two field trips, one on Maui and the other on the Big Island to highlight invasive species projects. There will be a short field trip on Oahu. It will start at the Dept. of Ag. OISC may have a chance to present material following this meeting during the bus ride over to the

windward side. On March 2 (evening) there will be a reception at the Bishop museum. Mindy thinks it would be good idea for us to put a poster on display.

Action – Create OISC poster for this event. Get a Miconia plant to use as an example

IV. OISC crew accomplishments

A. Field Work Summary (July – December 2003)

OISC TARGET SPECIES		
Field Summary July – December 2003		
Species Rank determined by New Zealand Assessment	Total treated	Total Field Hours
Existing Target Plant Species		
1. Miconia calvescens	178 / 1 M	1231
2. Eleutherodactylus coqui	N/A	705
3. Rubus discolor	1549	116
4. Schizachyrium condensatum	3918	220
5. Buddleia madagascariensis	104	16
6. Leptospermum scoparium	4056	650
7. Pennisetum setaceum	1219	113
8. Morella faya	0	92
9. Melastoma candidum	599	304
Additional Incipient Target Species		
Aquatic Invasive species	N/A	N/A
(TSM) Tibouchina urvilleana	0	16
(TAC) Cortaderia jubata & selloana	N/A	N/A
(TAC) Senecio madagascariensis	contributed	contributed
(TAC) Hedychium gardenarium	593	50
(TAC) Hiptage benghalensis	300	32

B. Highlights

1. New Buddleia location: Schoffield Barracks – Army Environmental is treating this population for OISC.

2. Glorybush (*Tibouchina urvilleana*): Most of the plants have been removed by HDOA in the Mililani Mauka housing development. There is still one tree next to the model house. There was a new sighting off of Tantalus drive. Staff was treating *Melastoma candidum* and found the plant close to the treatment site.

3. Miconia Maunawili, aerial ops: OISC has performed 3 aerial surveys in Maunawili for *Miconia calvescens* since the last meeting. One mature tree was found during these surveys. It has since been treated. Although OISC has not yet completed ground surveys of this area no other plants have been found. OISC suspects that the spread may have been subdued a bit from the current drought situation. Since the seeds stay in the soil for a long time it is possible that seedlings will pop up when the drought ends. The tree looks at least five years old. OISC is planning to do aerial surveys of manuka and other invasive species of the Fish and Wildlife Service reserve in Kipapa for the FWS.

4. Blackberry: OISC has noticed a huge reduction in population numbers at the 3 locations. It is good to finally have a solid method to treat blackberry. Roundup Pro at 2.5 % seems to be the most effective treatment as this version of Roundup can still be effective even if it rains shortly after application.

5. Ginger on Mt. Ka'ala: OISC has partnered with DOFAW/NARS and Army Environmental to treat ginger (*Hedychium gardenarium*) along the Kaala boardwalk. Although it is spreading it doesn't appear to have spread too quickly throughout the bog on the state side.

6. Created Photo database: OISC has purchased a new digital camera and set up a photo database to house all OISC photos. This database will be used for plant detection, staff education, and as a media/PR tool.

7. Reprioritization meeting: OISC has spent time developing an improved field strategy. Field time is now more carefully outlined for the year and monitored through the new OISC database.

8. Expanded gear arsenal: OISC has purchased its own set of field tools and gear as to be less reliant and taxing on all the OISC partners, specifically DOFAW.

9. DOFAW Christmas party: OISC celebrated the Christmas holiday with the first ever OISC Christmas party. Good times were had with other DOFAW staff at Pahole nursery. Thanks to Brent for the hats, Bob for housing it, and Leanne for all the fun games.

10. New vehicle: OISC purchased a 1996 Ford Bronco through DOFAW to replace an old blazer that finally broke down. This keeps the number of OISC vehicles at two.

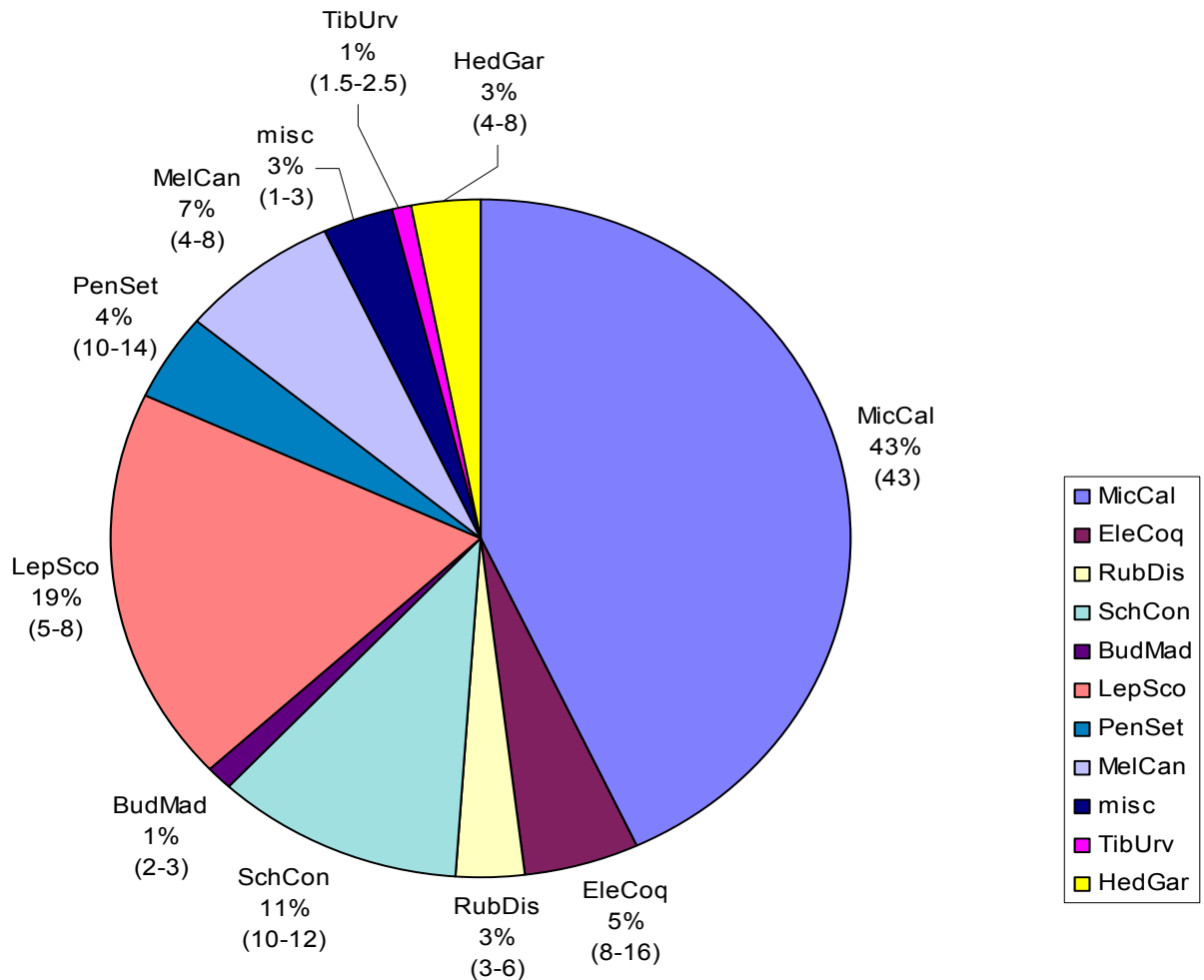
C. Volunteer opportunities:

OISC is no longer doing monthly Sierra Club outings. Because Miconia surveys are so strenuous and it takes a long time to train the eye to spot it OISC has decided not to advertise Miconia hunts through the Sierra Club anymore. Instead OISC is hoping to rely more on dedicated Miconia hunters to help us out. We will still have Miconia hunts for those dedicated volunteers. They will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month. We will still advertise through the Sierra Club, but it will be for specific projects that seem appropriate for the general public. The next one will be to scout Manuka on Manana trail in February.

D. Field Time: For this meeting OISC compared the estimated field time projected from reprioritization meeting and held it against the actual time OISC has spent on each species for the last three months. See Chart below:

2003 – 2004 OISC TARGET SPECIES				
Species Rank determined by New Zealand Assessment		Proposed FY 03 -04	Proposed FY 03 -04	
Existing Target Plant Species	Nox weed	Est. # Field Days	Est. % of Field	Control ▲
1. Miconia calvescens	X	120	43.0%	O'ahu
2. Eleutherodactylus coqui	--	20 to 40	8 - 16%	O'ahu
3. Rubus discolor	--	8 to 15	3 - 6%	O'ahu
4. Schizachyrium condensatum	--	20 to 30	10 - 12%	O'ahu
5. Buddleia madagascariensis	--	4 to 6	2 -3%	O'ahu
6. Leptospermum scoparium	--	12 to 20	5 - 8%	O'ahu
7. Pennisetum setaceum	X	25 to 35	10 - 14%	O'ahu Waianae emphasis
8. Morella faya	X	5 to 20	2- 8%	O'ahu - Ko'olau emphasis
9. Melastoma candidum	X	10 to 20	4 - 8%	O'ahu
Additional Incipient Target				
Aquatic Invasive species	N/A	3 to 8	1- 3%	O'ahu
(TSM) Tibouchina urvilleana	X	4 to 6	1.5 -2.5%	O'ahu
(TAC) Cortaderia jubata & seloana	X / --	3 to 8	1- 3%	O'ahu
(TAC) Senecio madagascariensis	X	1 to 5	1.0%	O'ahu
(TAC) Hedychium gardenarium	--	4 to 8	1- 3%	O'ahu
(TAC) Hedychium gardenarium	--	4 to 8	1- 3%	Mt. Ka'ala
(TAC) Hiptage benghalensis	--	10 to 20	4 - 8%	O'ahu
(TAC) Hiptage benghalensis	--	4 to 5	1-2%	O'ahu

The following chart demonstrates what percentage of field time OISC spends on each species. The number in parentheses is the percent of field time that OISC set as a goal during the reprioritization meeting:



V. Invasive species project presentation: USFWS West Nile Virus (10:30am)- Jeff Burgett “Protecting Hawaii From West Nile Virus”

Jeff Burgett gave a detailed talk on the West Nile Virus.

Some notes from the talk:

1. WNV swept across the U.S. in four years. Came from the Middle East to N.Y. This summer experts are expecting a big WNV explosion this year in LA.
2. Some of the potential paths to Hawaii:
 1. Migratory birds (low risk)
 2. Birds from mainland (high risk)
 3. Infected mosquitoes in air/sea cargo (high risk?)

The added risk as the hub of the pacific is that we could send it to other pacific islands.

3. What is it? WNV is a bird disease, and birds are the “primary reservoir”

Some birds have a high case fatality rate; others have a mild disease. It has spread through mosquitoes. The mosquito most likely to spread WNV is Culex .

4. Mammals usually don't die from it. Most don't react at all. About 20% infected get flu. One in 150 get a serious brain and nervous disease. It can't be treated by antibiotics. It may be more serious for the elderly with 1/80 – 1/40 getting this disease. Since 1999 – 15,027 cases of serious illness. 553 fatalities.

5. WNV is a huge threat to the Hawaiian Islands. Mosquito bites would become potentially deadly and/or bring illness. There will be visitor industry impacts. Can be passed through organ donations, transfusions, birth, and mother's milk. Native birds will decline. It will be costly to control on the islands.

6. 3 aspects of strategic place: 1. Prevention 2. Surveillance 3. Response

- A. Prevention measures: 1. Postal embargo. Can't mail birds to HI. 2. Live bird quarantine) HI, Guam) 3. Options for enhancement. - Insecticide treatment of aircraft – Reduction in vectors and/or hosts at likely points
- B. Surveillance measures. 1. Limited serosurvey of Oahu birds 2. Limited dead bird mosquito testing. – Medical, vet survey. – Issues: time lag, comprehensiveness, data management, communication
- C. Response Measure: 1. vector control planned in urban areas. ??? missing info

VI. Legislative summary and funding status : Mindy Wilkinson

The money tagged for invasive species within the governor's budget is still being passed through committee.

VII. Addressing Invasive Species Statewide:

a. Invasive Species - the bigger picture in Hawaii: Mindy Wilkinson

There is not another HISC meeting scheduled at this time. One will be scheduled soon. Bruce- Is there a conflict of interests with the department heads? – Mindy- It may be complex getting the budget transferred from one department to the other. However, in the long run the additional funding may help all the departments.

b. Media Campaign update: Christy Martin

Christy was hired to create a media campaign for CGAPS and the ISCs. She is trying to collect information about what the current public awareness. She has identified key messages. 1. Urge folks to report quickly to the hotline. 2. Get people to stop bringing in invasive plants 3. Get people to stop planting pests. Christy has been looking for funding. She got money from the FWS and recently just received 50,000 from the Hawaii Tourism Authority. She has organized a focus group through Ward research. She next wants to start clarifying the message that needs to get out. Before advertisements start playing she wants to make sure that the structure is set up for the ISCs. Especially to make sure a hotline is set up and the groups are ready to respond to these issues. The Ward Research company will conduct 500 initial telephone surveys. There is enough money for 8 months of TV commercials. They will do a 2nd telephone survey for 500 folks at the end of the TV commercial run. Everything needs to be set up before May and so therefore Christy will contract a media group to set this up. These advertisements would run in the best

time slots for 8 months, 1 month on, 1 month off. Four months total. The average TV watcher would see the message 2-3 times a week.

c. Aquatic invasives: Bruce Casler

Andy Schlucker produced a management plan and it was passed through. The aquatic invasive species committee made a grant proposal to FWS and it looks like they may get \$70,000 to hire a coordinator. They want to set up an aquatic invasive advisory council. They hope to get it going to begin addressing initial issues for example, to prioritize species, do any additional research, and form a rapid response team. Would like to seek the OISC our knowledge in setting this up. They want to bring aquatics and plants together to raise awareness as a collective problem. They do not want to take money from us and are looking for additional sources. Bruce is trying to find an aquatic invasive species control project for OISC to test out. He is thinking about what the future could look like and is looking at the possibility of integrating aquatics as a subgroup of OISC. He is still unsure of what this picture of an aquatic invasive team will look like. He is trying to push a structure forward.

VIII. Next meeting date and location.

OISC is looking at doing it in a location where OISC is currently targeting invasive species with the intent to generate public interest. It is tentatively set for April 21-22nd

Action: Send out e-mail to confirm on the area and then to confirm the date.

~ Pau~

Attendees: Meghan Halabisky, Coleen Cory, Keahialaka Rooster Balaz, Kahale Pali, Joshua Fisher, Scott Lynch, Shahin Ansari, Rob Hoff, Mindy Wilkinson, Leila Gibson, Christy Martin, Katie Swift, Bruce Casler.